

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display control device for controlling display of pictures from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines on a plurality of display areas on a screen, said display control device comprising:

an attributes information memory, which stores display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas; and

a notification unit, which notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the stored display attributes information.

2. A display control device according to Claim 1, wherein the display attributes information is created or changed according to settings of the plurality of display areas.

3. A display control device according to Claim 1, wherein notification by said notification means is performed synchronously with a change in an input picture signal.

4. A display control device according to Claim 1, wherein notification by said notification means is performed synchronously with at least one of:



on a screen, said display control device comprising:

an obtaining unit, which obtains identification signals relating to pictures from the plurality of signals sources;

a display selection information creating unit, which creates display selection information based on obtained identification signals;

a display selection unit, which appropriates pictures to the plurality of display areas according to the created display selection information; and

a notification unit, which notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the created display selection information.

10. A display control device according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an image memory, which stores a plurality of pictures input from the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines; and

an area securing unit which secures a storage area for storing each of the plurality of pictures in said image memory, according to the display selection information.

11. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein the display selection information is created or

changed according to settings of the plurality of display areas.

12. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in the display selection information.

13. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in input pictures.

14. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in a number of input pictures.

15. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification means is performed on a network synchronously with at least one of:

a change in a number of signals on a network comprising the signal lines; and

a change in an attribute of a signal.

16. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed

synchronously with a change in size or position of a display area of an input picture on the screen.

17. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in size or position of a display area on the screen.

18. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in usage of a display area.

19. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in content of an input picture.

20. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein notification by said notification unit is performed synchronously with a change in a positional relation of a plurality of picture-in-picture screens on the screen.

21. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining unit are identification numbers provided to the plurality of signal sources.

22. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining unit are communication addresses provided to the plurality of signal sources.

23. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining unit are identification numbers or communication addresses provided for an output mode of the plurality of signal sources.

24. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining unit are identification numbers or communication addresses provided for an output channel of the plurality of signal sources.

25. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining unit are identification numbers or communication addresses provided for the pictures.

26. A display control device according to Claim 9, wherein identification signals obtained by said obtaining

unit are identification numbers or communication addresses provided to users of the plurality of signal sources of the pictures.

27. A display control system for controlling display of pictures from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines on a plurality of display areas on a screen, said system comprising a display control device that includes:

an attributes information memory, which stores display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas;

an obtaining unit, which obtains identification signals relating to pictures from the plurality of signal sources;

a display selection information creating unit, which creates display selection information based on obtained identification signals;

a display selection unit, which appropriates the pictures to the plurality of display areas according to created display selection information; and

a notification unit, which notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of stored display attributes information and the created display selection information,

wherein each of the plurality of signal sources comprises a transmitting unit, which transmits picture signals corresponding to a display area, based on notified display attributes information and the display selection information.

28. A display control system according to Claim 27, wherein the transmitting unit suppresses an amount of information of the picture signals, based on the display attributes information and the display selection information, and transmits the picture signals of which the amount of information has been suppressed.

29. A display control method for controlling display of pictures from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines on a plurality of display areas on a screen of a display control device, said method comprising:

the following steps executed at the display control device:

storing display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas;

obtaining identification signals relating to pictures from the plurality of signals sources;

creating display selection information based on obtained identification information;



appropriating the pictures to the plurality of display areas according to display selection information created in said creating step; and

notifying the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the display attributes information stored in said storing step and the created display selection information, and

the following step executed at the plurality of signal sources:

transmitting picture signals corresponding to said the plurality of display areas, based on the display attributes information notified in said notifying step and the created display selection information.

30. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a method of a display control device, for controlling display of pictures from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines on a plurality of display areas on a screen, the program comprising:

code for a storage step of storing display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas;

code for an obtaining step of obtaining identification signals relating to picture signals from the plurality of signal sources;

code for a creating step of creating display selection

code for an appropriating step of appropriating the pictures to the plurality of display areas according to the created display selection information; and

code for a notifying step of notifying the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the stored display attributes information and created display selection information.